

The basis in the disclosure for each of the recitations mentioned in the Communication will be explained below.

Amendment to Claim 21

Reason for Amendment: The present invention is directed to a module for use in a local area network. In such networks, communication necessarily takes place between identical modems because they utilize the same protocol and operate with the same timing and synchronization. The situation is quite different in the case of wide area networks in which an exchange side modem communicates with one or more subscriber-side modems. The exchange-side modem functions as a "master", while the subscriber-side modems function as "slaves". Timing and synchronization are controlled by the exchange side modem. Therefore, in the case of wide area networks, communication does not take place between identical modems.

Thus, the purpose of the amendment was to more clearly distinguish between the structure of a module employed in a local area network and that of a module employed in a wide area network.

Support in the Present Specification: Fig. 7 illustrates one example of the module defined in claim 21. This includes a telephone line modem 23, which is the local area network modem defined in claim 21. Fig. 8 shows a network composed of a plurality of such modules. Specifically, each outlet 88 is described as containing a telephone line modem 23 (page 14, line 18). Page 13, lines 3-5 of the specification contains the statement that in the drawings and descriptions "identical reference numerals indicate those components which are common to different embodiments or configurations". Thus, according to the

specification, the reference numeral 23 identifies components that are the same as one another. Since the specification indicates that in a network according to the invention, each module contains a telephone line modem 23, and since it is known that identical modems are employed in local area networks, it is submitted that the present specification at least implicitly supports the limitation "identical modem" in claim 21.

Amendment to Claim 22

The limitations added to claim 22 are supported essentially by Fig. 13 and the description thereof, more specifically, the limitations are supported as follows:

the wiring comprises at least two conductors-
specification, page 2, lines 26-29;

in walls of the building- Specification, page 3, lines 10-14 and page 18, line 29 to page 19, line 2. Obviously, if the outlet is installed in building walls, the wiring must be in the walls;

and a plurality of outlets allowing for connection to the two conductors by means of a service jack,- Specification, page 18, line 28 to page 19, line 5; Figure 13 shows two outlets 132 and 134, each with service jacks 138 and 140;

and wherein the module further comprises a service plug connectable to a mating service jack,- Specification, page 2, lines 19-21 identifies elements 14a and 14b as plugs and the specification, at page 14, lines 9-16, which refers to Figure 8, describes outlets 88 containing modules 70 (Figure 7) and plugs 14a and 14b;

Please note that the claim does not positively recite a mating service jack, but simply refers to it to explain the function of the service plug. In this art, any plug must be connected to a jack;

and said modem is coupled to said service plug-As shown in Figure 7, each module 70 contains a modem 23; therefore, each module in module 70, described as being in an outlet 88, must be connected a plug 14a or 14b.

Amendment to Claim 25

Fig. 13 illustrates outlets that can be used in the practice of the present invention. The specification states, at page 19, lines 1-2, that outlet 132 has a flange 146 for installing in the building walls. Inherently, when an outlet is installed in the building wall, it is installed in an opening in a wall that would be understood by those skilled in the art to constitute an outlet cavity.

Such an outlet can only be installed at a point containing wiring ends that can be attached to the outlet and such a point is invariably constituted by an outlet cavity. Since, as described on page 19 of the specification, a module is disposed within outlet 132, that module must be dimensioned to be mountable in such an outlet cavity.

Claims 32, 35, 59 and 63

These claims add features similar to those added to claims 21 and 25, and support for those limitations has been described above.

Claim 85

This claim is directed to a kit as shown in Fig. 13 and as described in the specification on pages 18 and 19. Page 19 specifically discloses that outlet 132 contains a module and that outlets 132 and 134 are substantially identical, which means that each outlet will contain a module. Support for the limitation that the modems are identical has

already been described above with respect to the support for claim 21.

Claim 86

This claim is being canceled by an accompanying supplemental amendment.

Claim 87

Support for this claim has been described above with reference to claim 21.

Claim 88

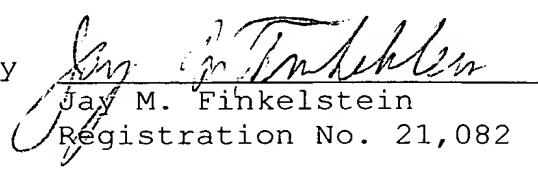
Support for the recitation appearing in this claim will be found in the specification at page 17, lines 9-11.

Claim 89

The criticism of this claim is not clearly understood. It should be self-evident, and hence inherent in the disclosure, that the selective means, defined in claim 59 before the last amendment, must be able to pass at least one voice channel between two modems.

Thus, all of the previous amendments questioned by the examiner are clearly supported by the original disclosure.

Respectfully submitted,
BROWDY AND NEIMARK, P.L.L.C.
Attorneys for Applicant

By 
Jay M. Finkelstein
Registration No. 21,082

JMF:jec
Telephone No.: (202) 628-5197
Facsimile No.: (202) 737-3528
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